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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8938

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 9891

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJ: FURTHER REACTION TO AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH

REFS: (A) BRASILIA 9838 (B) BRASILIA 9859

SUMMARY: MAJOR DAILY ESTADO DE SAO PAULO HAS USED ITAMARATY REACTION TO AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS' MINAS GERAIS SPEECH RE BICENTENNIAL AS OCCASION FOR ATTACKING ELEMENTS IN GOVERNMENT WHO MISINTERPRETED SPEECH AS USG PRESSURE TACTIC AGAINST FRG-GOB NUCLEAR ACCORD. NEWS MAGAZINE "VEJA" HAS HELPED PUT REACTION INTO PERSPECTIVE BY REFERRING TO "ESTRAVAGANT CONCERN" IN BRASILIA WHERE "HYPERSENSITIVE OFFICIALS" ARE WATCHING FOR SMALLEST EVIDENCE OF CHANGING US POLICY TOWARDS BRAZIL BY NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION. NEXT ACT MAY WELL BE FORTHCOMING SENATE DEBATE LED BY MDB, BUT APPARENTLY WITH SUPPORT OF BOTH PARTIES, OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S DECLARATIONS ON FRG-GOB NUCLEAR ACCORD. END SUMMARY.

1. CURRENT EDITORIAL REACTION TO AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH RE BICENTENNIAL TO MINAS GERAIS LEGISLATURE WHICH DREW ON HUMAN RIGHTS PASSAGES IN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, CONSTITUTION AND BILL OF RIGHTS, WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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CRITICIZED BY ELEMENTS OF ITAMARATY (REF A) IS POSITIVE.

ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, BRAZIL'S MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER, HAS USED SPEECH AS AN EDITORIAL VEHICLE TO ATTACK ELEMENTS IN ITAMARATY WHICH SAW AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH AS A PRESSURE TACTIC ULTIMATELY AIMED AT BREAKING UP FRG-GOB NUCLEAR ACCORD (REF B). ESTADO, WHICH NORMALLY HAS BEEN AT ODDS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, COMPLIMENTED SILVEIRA FOR (1) "DISTANCING HIMSELF FROM THE INTRIGUES OF OFFICIALS OF ITAMARATY WHO AIMED TO CREATE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BRAZIL AND THE US;" AND (2) REFUTING THOSE PROMOTING DIFFERENCES. ESTADO CLAIMED INCIDENT WAS INSTRUCTIVE BECAUSE IT PROVED THAT HIGH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN INFILTRATED BY ELEMENTS "WHO WERE TRYING TO SABOTAGE GOVERNMENT ACTIONS AND DAMAGE NATIONAL INTERESTS." ESTADO NOTED PRESS, WHICH ITSELF HAD UNJUSTLY BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING SUBVERSIVE IN PAST, HAD RISKED CREATING HOSTILE BRAZILIAN PUBLIC OPINION CLIMATE TOWARDS US ON BASIS OF ITS ALLEGED OFFICIAL SOURCES.

2. ESTADO EDITORIAL CALLED IDEA THAT US WAS ENCIRCLING AND ISOLATING BRAZIL "ABSURD AND FICTITIOUS" AND ADDED THAT THEMES AMBASSADOR HAD STRESSED WERE BASIC VALUES IN US AND ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE ON AN OCCASION HONORING US BICENTENNIAL. IN ANOTHER ARTICLE, ESTADO STATED IT WAS "RIDICULOUS" THAT ITAMARATY DIPLOMATS WERE IGNORANT OF NORTH AMERICAN LIBERAL THOUGHT TO THE EXTENT THEY COULD INTERPRET AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH AS A PRESSURE TACTIC AGAINST GEISEL GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS COURAGEOUSLY MOVED TO ADVANCE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS DESPITE OPPOSITION OF REACTIONARIES WITHIN THE GOB. ARTICLE CONCLUDED THAT SOME ITAMARATY DIPLOMATS COULD ONLY THINK OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN A MARXIST FRAMEWORK.

3. IN BALANCED REPORT WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE "VEJA" REPORTED AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH WITHIN CONTEXT OF COMMEMORATIVE OCCASION, BUT NOTED SPEECH GENERATED "EXTRAVAGANT CONCERN" IN BRASILIA WHERE BUREAUCRATS WERE FEVERISHLY LOOKING FOR SIGNS OF NEW US POLICY TOWARDS BRAZIL WITH THE CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATIONS. "VEJA" NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH ITAMARATY REFUSED TO COMMENT OFFICIALLY, "HYPERSENSITIVE" DIPLOMATS SAW NOTHING LESS

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IN THE AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH THAN THE FIRST SIGNS OF EXPECTED PRESSURES FROM WASHINGTON ABOUT THE FRG-GOB NUCLEAR ACCORDS. ACCORDING TO THIS INTERPRETATION AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH WAS TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF TENSION IN GOB-USG RELATIONS WHICH WOULD THEN FAVOR THE APPLICATION OF PRESSURE BY THE US.

4. "VEJA" ALSO QUOTED THIRD-COUNTRY DIPLOMATIC AND

ITAMARATY SOURCES WHO CLAIM AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH WAS FOR PERSONAL GAIN WITH NEW ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS AIMED AT UPSETTING FRG-GOB NUCLEAR ACCORD. "VEJA" CLAIMED AN UNNAMED DIPLOMATIC SOURCE STATED "THIS IS ALL A SMOKE SCREEN. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THE NUCLEAR ACCORD. DO YOU THINK THAT THOSE WHO MADE WAR IN VIETNAM ARE THAT PREOCCUPIED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS IN BRAZIL? ARTICLE ENDED ON BALANCED NOTE INDICATING THE ONLY CONTROVERSIAL ASPECT OF NUCLEAR ACCORD IS PLUTONIUM REPROCESSING CAPABILITY AND THAT US OPPOSITION IS FOR PURPOSE OF HALTING PROLIFERATION. UNNAMED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES ADDED, ACCORDING TO "VEJA," THAT IN THE BRAZILIAN CASE IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACH "A COMPROMISE FORMULA WHEN INTELLIGENT PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THE POTENTIAL DANGER OF A REPROCESSING PLANT."

5. MAJOR DAILIES REPORTED NOVEMBER 28 THAT MDB SENATOR PAULO BROSSARD WILL LEAD AN MDB PROTEST IN THE SENATE THIS WEEK AGAINST STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER WHICH MDB SEES AS DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE AGAINST BRAZILIAN-GERMAN NUCLEAR ACCORD. JORNAL DO BRASIL ALSO INDICATED THAT BROSSARD WOULD ATTACK AMBASSADOR'S BELO HORIZONTE SPEECH AS WELL, BUT ITAMARATY LIAISON OFFICER TO CONGRESS AND BRAZILIAN NEWSMAN WHO HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BROSSARD HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO US THAT BROSSARD WILL DEAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH CARTER STATEMENTS ABOUT NUCLEAR ACCORD.

6. ACCORDING TO RIO'S JORNAL DO BRASIL MDB'S PLANNED PROTEST IS A DELICATE PROBLEM FOR THE PRO-GOVERNMENT PARTY ARENA. ARENA, IT CLAIMS, DOES NOT WANT TO APPEAR TO ACCEDE TO EXTERNAL PRESSURES, BUT
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AT THE SAME TIME WANTS TO AVOID CREATING PROBLEMS FOR THE GEISEL GOVERNMENT BY STIRRING UP PROBLEMS WITH INCOMING CARTER ADMINISTRATION. REPORTS SUGGEST THERE HAS BEEN INFORMAL AGREEMENT AMONG EXECUTIVE BRANCH, ARENA AND MDB CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO HAVE MDB CARRY BURDEN OF THE ATTACK THIS TIME AGAINST CARTER STATEMENTS.

7. COMMENT: FLURRY OVER AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH HAS APPARENTLY RUN ITS COURSE, BUT SENATE SPEECHES ON NUCLEAR AGREEMENT RE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S STATEMENTS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY FEED WHAT "VEJA" REFERRED TO AS "EXTRAVAGANT CONCERN" BY BRAZILIANS THAT NEW ADMINISTRATION MAY BRING CHANGE IN US POLICY TOWARDS GOB AT TIME WHEN BRAZIL FEELS BELEAGUERED BY INTERNAL ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY. END COMMENT.

8. IN VIEW FACT STATE 290013 WAS ADDRESSED TO USDEL
SECRETARY (TOSEC 310121), DEPT MAY WISH TO PASS THIS AND
OTHER PERTINENT BRASILIA MESSAGES TO USDEL SECRETARY.
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